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COUNTRY Germany/French Zone/Switzerland

SUBJECT New Swiss Border Controls and French Policy
in Germany

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

1. No more children will be allowed out of the French Zone on vacation health visits to Switzerland and adults will no longer be permitted to leave the zone without American or British visas. No other visa will be honored. One-day visits to Switzerland for inhabitants of the Constance region will still be authorized but in reduced numbers. From January on, only two persons daily will be permitted to cross the frontier. A limited number of workers from Constance employed in the Kreuzlingen area are still permitted, however, to cross each day to their jobs. The French, however, take from two-thirds to three-quarters of their total salary in Swiss francs in return for the privilege.
2. A well-informed sub-source figures that twenty percent of all French supervised production in the French Zone reaches the black market with the connivance of German laborers and French supervisors. The word used locally for this procedure is "abzweigen". The black market itself in the zone is restricted to small quantities and single trades on the 1 kg. level but is, nevertheless, extremely active. Travelling Swiss are now known to be having shoes and clothing made in the French Zone in trade for Swiss goods or Swiss francs as has been done all along in Italy.
3. The French do not exercise censorship of newspapers published in the French Zone but content themselves with passing material to editorial staffs which must be published, and which gives the impression that the French Zone is the best off of all four occupation zones. A recent article of French official origin in all papers played up the extreme misery of the Hamburg area, with overtones concerning the contrast between the British Zone and the French Zone.

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